

ISLAM, LAW AND MODERNITY



The Challenges of Teaching Islamic Theology in a Western Context

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Although European Universities have a long history of studying and teaching Islamic Studies, they do not possess any capacities of teaching Islam from an “insider perspective” (i.e. as Islamic Theology). This makes the task of the establishment of Islamic Theology as an academic discipline very challenging, both for the Muslim minorities and the European stakeholders. The main questions of this dilemma are related to the curriculum (what should be taught), the method of teaching (classical or modern), and how to reform Islamic education in order to meet the norms of democracy and human rights. Taking the German experience as a case study, the lecture will shed light on the way in which the training of teachers and imams at German universities is currently progressing.

Mouez Khalfaoui is a Professor of Islamic Jurisprudence at the University of Tübingen, Germany. He started his academic career at the University of Tunis, where he received a Master degree of Arabic Studies and Islamic Studies in 1994, followed by a State Examination in Islamic Studies in 1998. He obtained his PhD from the University of Erfurt (Germany) in 2007 with a dissertation about Islamic Law in South Asia. He worked as teacher, advisor in education and diplomacy. His main research fields are Islamic law and its history, Islamic law as minority law, and Arabic and Islamic literature.

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